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**Health Care Cost Growth in Vermont Continues to Outpace National Growth,  
Underscores the Need for Reform**

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**Montpelier, VT** – Health care cost growth in Vermont continued to outpace national rates of increase between 2009 and 2010, according to a report released today by the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB), in collaboration with the Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities and Health Care Administration (BISHCA). According to the annual “Expenditure Analysis,” overall health care costs rose at a rate of 4.8 percent between 2009 and 2010, and at an average rate of 6.3 percent between 2005 and 2010. From 2009-2010, Vermont’s gross state product (GSP), a measure of economic growth in the state, grew four percent. From 2005 to 2010, GSP grew at an average rate of 2.4 percent. National health care costs grew at just over four percent between 2005 and 2010, while the national economy grew 2.8.

	<b>Growth in health care costs, 2009- 2010</b>	<b>Growth in health care costs, 2005- 2010</b>	<b>Growth in economy, 2009- 2010</b>	<b>Growth in economy, 2005-2010</b>
<b>Vermont</b>	4.8%	6.3%	4.0%	2.4%
<b>United States</b>	4.0%	4.2%	4.2%	2.8%

“This analysis only underscores the pressing need for change,” said Anya Rader Wallack, chair of the GMCB. “We simply can’t afford, as a state, to have health care cost growth dwarf growth in our economy. We are spending nearly 20 cents out of every dollar on health care, up from less than 13 cents in 2000. It’s time for action, on a number of fronts, to affect these trends. We know we can reduce the cost trend while enhancing the excellent quality of care that already exists in Vermont.”

Note: U.S. numbers based upon the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary, “National Health Expenditures, Health Consumption Expenditures”

